

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PRETOR 00278 231655Z

67

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 SS-07 AID-01 NSC-06 RSC-01 /023 W

----- 010931

R 231411Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1173

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS PRETORIA 0278

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP, US, SF

SUBJECT: CODEL

REFERENCE: (A) STATE 12398

(B) PRETORIA 217

1. RAND DAILY MAIL, JOHANNESBURG STAR AND PRETORIA NEWS
JANUARY 21 ALL CARRY STORIES ON VISIT OF CONGRESSMEN CRANE,
WILSON, KETCHUM, BURGNER, WHITEHURST, AND LENT. NEWS AND
STAR ALSO CARRY PICTURES OF GROUP.

2. WE HAVE OFFERED OUR ASSISTANCE TO GROUP BUT THEY HAVE NOT
YET ASKED FOR ANYTHING FROM EMBASSY.

3. TEXT OF THREE STORES FOLLOWS:

BEGIN RAND DAILY MAIL STORY

QTE THE MYSTERY OF THE AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN TOURING SOUTH AFRICA
DEEPENED YESTERDAY WITH SOME OF THEM DECLARING THAT THEY HAD
NOT PREVIOUSLY MET THEIR HOST- PRETORIA BUSINESSMAN MR.
WERNER ACKERMAN. BUT MR. ACKERMAN SAYS HE INVITED PEOPLE
HE MET WHILE ON VISITS TO THE UNITED STATES.

BOTH MR. ACKERMAN AND THE SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION, DR.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PRETOR 00278 231655Z

ESCHEL RHOODIE, YESTERDAY DENIED THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF

INFORMATION WAS BEHIND THE 13 DAY VISIT BY THE SIX CONGRESSMEN.

DR. RHOODIE SAID HIS DEPARTMENT HAD HELPED MR. ACKERMAN ARRANGE VISITS TO PLACES OF INTEREST AND MEETINGS WITH SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICIANS BUT " THERE IS NOTHING NEW IN THIS", HE SAID.

FROM NEW YORK, A RAND DAILY MAIL CORRESPONDENT REPORTS THAT THE LONE DEMOCRAT INVITED TO JOIN THE SIX INFLUENTIAL REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMEN ON THE TOUR WITHDREW AT THE LAST MOMENT AS PUBLICITY AND CONTROVERSY CONTINUED TO GROW IN AMERICA.

MR BILL CHAPPELL SAID HE WAS " MUCH DISPLEASED" THAT HE WAS FORCED TO STAY BEHIND FOR PERSONAL REASONS. HE AGREED WITH CLAIMS THAT THE INVITATION TO VISIT SOUTH AFRICA BY MR. ACKERMAN CAME AFTER DIRECT FINANCING BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ILLEGAL. BUT HE SAID HE DISAGREED WITH THE RULING. CONGRESSMEN AND U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE FORBIDDEN TO TRAVEL AT THE EXPENSE OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AND A U.S. OFFICAL SAID THAT SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON HAD TRIED EARLIER " EFFORTS TO CLOTHE THIS VISIT WITH A PRIVATE CLOAK". IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT ONLY LEARNED OF THE PRESENT VISIT EARLY LAST WEEK, AND A NEWS AGENCY REPORTING " STATE DEPARTMENT EMBARRASSMENT" OVER THE TRIP CLAIMED THAT SOME U.Z. OFFICIALS " PRIVATELY EXPRESSED THEIR DESMAY AT WHAT THEY CONSIDER A TRIUMPH FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN INFORMATION DEPARTMENT".

IN PRETORIA YESTERDAY MR. BOB WILSON, THE GROUP'S LEADER, TOLD A STAFF REPORTED " THERE'S NOTHING SINISTER ABOUT OUR VISIT. WE CAME SIMPLY BECAUSE WE WERE INTERESTED IN KNOWING MORE ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA".

MR. G. WILLIAM WHITEHURST, A FELLOW REPUBLICAN OF MR. WILEON'S ON THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, SAYS THAT HE AND OTHERS IN THE GROUP HAD ISSUED PRESS STATEMENTS BEFORE THEY LEFT THEIR HOME DISTRICTS SAYING WHERE THEY WERE GOING AND SY- TO GET A FIRSTHAND LOOK AT THE COUNTRY.

" THE FACT THAT TWO OF US ARE ON THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE AND ANOTHER REPRESENTS A DISTRICT WITH A DEFENSE MANUFACTURING CENTR IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL", HE SAID.

" WE'RE HERE BASICALLY AS INTERESTED TOURISTS".

THE MEMBERS OF THE SIX MAN GROUP - FIVE OF WHOM ARE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PRETOR 00278 231655Z

TRAVELLING WITH THEIR WIVES - RECEIVED WRITTEN INVITATIONS FROM MR. ACKERMAN IN THE MIDDLE OF LAST YEAR. MR. WILSON SAID YESTERDAY THAT HE HAD NOT MET MR. ACKERMAN. HE WAS EXPECTING TO DO SO LAST NIGHT AT A DINNER SCHEDULED FOR THE PARTY. HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER OTHERS IN THE GROUPS HAD MET HIM BUT THOUGHT THEY HAD NOT.

MR. WHITEHURST SAID HE HAD HEARD THAT SOME CONGRESSMEN WERE GOIN ON THE TRIP AND " PUT OUT FEELERS". THE INVITATION

FROM MR. ACKERMAN FOLLOWED.

ANOTHER OF THE GROUP, MR. CLAIR BURGNER, WHO REPRESENTS A DISTRICT NEIGHBORING MR. WILSON'S IN SAN DIEGO, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, WAS TOLD OF THE PROPOSED TOUR BY MR. WILSON, WHO THEN INTRODUCE HIM TO A SOUTH AFRICAN INFORMATION OFFICER IN AMERICA. MR. BURGNER'S INVITATION FOLLOWED.

MR. WILLSON SAID THE GROUP WOULD BE MEETING MEMBERS OF THE THREE POLITICAL PARTIES. THEY WOULD SEE HLUHLUWE GAME RESERVE AND THE KIRSTENBOSCH GARDENS IN CAPE TOWN.

THEY WOULD MEET THE EDITOR OF WORLD, MR. PERCY QOBOZA, AND WOULD SEE THE SIMONSTOWN NAVAL BASE. " I AM INTERESTED IN SEEING YOUR NAVY BUT NOT ON BEHALF OF THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE- JUST FOR MYSELF".

MR. ACKERMAN YESTERDAY SAID THE GROUP WAS NOT THE FIRST HE INVITED TO SOUTH AFRICA. ' I DO IT REGULARLY - I HAVE SOME PEOPLE FROM FRANCE COMING IN ABOUT THREE WEEKS AND SOME FROM AUSTRIA AFTER THAT', HE SAID.

THE SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION, DR. ESCHER RHODIE, SAID THAT IT WAS NOTHING NEW FOR HIS DEPARTMENT TO HELP ARRANGE THE ITINERARY OF THE TOUR. ' WE HAVE BEEN DOING IT FOR YEARS- LAST YEAR WE DID THE SAME FOR AT LEAST 200 OVERSEAS VISITORS'.

UNQTE. END RAND DAILY MAIL STORY.

BEGIN JOHANNESBURG STAR STORY.

QTE THE SIX UNITED STATES CONGRESSMEN TOURING SOUTH AFRICA FIND THE ALLEGED SECRECY SURROUNDING THEIR VISIT A JOKE.

IN A FREE FLOWING INTERVIEW WITH THEM AND THEIR WIVES IN PRETORIA'S BURGERS PARK HOTEL LAST NIGHT- ONLY HOURS AFTER THEIR HOST, PRETORIA BUSINESSMAN MR. WERNER ACKERMAN TOLD THE STAR THAT THEY DID NOT WISH TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED OR INTERVIEWED- THEY JOKED ABOUT THE ALLEGED CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THEIR VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA.

FAR FROM LEAVING AMERICA UNDER CLANDESTINE CONDITIONS, MR. BILL KETCHUM AND HIS WIFE, LOLA, SAID THEY HAD KNOWN ABOUT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 PRETOR 00278 231655Z

THE TRIP FOR MORE THAN SIX MONTHS, HAD CLEARED IT WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEE, AND HAD ISSUED A PRESS STATEMENT ON THE TOUR. THE CONSTITUTIONAL BAR ON CONGRESSMEN TRAVELLING ABROAD AS GUESTS OF ANY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT ' IS FARCICAL', SAID MR. KETCHUM. THIS IS THE ALLEGED REASON THEY WERE GUESTS OF MR ACKERMAN, WHO HAD ASKED THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TO HELP WITH THE TOUR PARTY'S ARRANGEMENTS. MR. KETCHUM SAID HE WAS FREE TO VISIT RED CHINA OR CUBA, WHERE HE HAD NO OPTION BUT TO BE A GUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT, BUT NOT TO VISIT A COUNTRY LIKE SOUTH AFRICA UNDER THE SAME CONDITIONS.

THE CONGRESSMEN ARRIVED IN PRETORIA ON SUNDAY. ON THEIR TOUR THEY WILL VISIT DURBAN, THE TRANSKEI, WHERE THEY WILL MEET CHIEF KAISER MATANZIMA AND OPPOSITION LEADERS, EAST LONDON, CAPE TOWN, AND SIMONSTOWN. IN CAPE TOWN THEY WILL

MEET THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, DR. CONNIE MULDER. UNQTE
END JOHANNESBURG STAR STORY. BEGIN PRETORIA NEWS SOTRY
QTE THE SIX UNITED STATES CONGRESSMEN TOURING SOUTH AFRICA
FIND THE ALLEGED SECRECY SURROUNDING THEIR VISIT HILARIOUS.
IN AN INTERVIEW IN PRETORIA'S BURGERS PARK HOTEL LAST
NIGHT- HOURS AFTER THEIR HOST, PRETORIA BUSINESSMAN WERNER
ACKERMAN, HAD SAID THEY DID NOT WISH TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED OR
INTERVIEWED- THEY JOKED ABOUT THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING
THEIR VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA.
FAR FROM LEAVING AMERICA UNDER CLANDESTINE CONDITIONS,
MR. BILL KETCHUM AND HIS WIFE LOLA SAID THEY HAD KNOWN ABOUT
THE TRIP FOR OVER SIX MONTHS, HAD CLEARED IT WITH THE
CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEE AND HAD ISSUED A PRESS STATEMENT
ON THE TOUR.
A GROUP OF DEMOCRATS WAS MEANT TO ACCOMPANY THE GROUP
BUT WAS PREVENTED BY THEIR PARTY'S LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE, SAID
MR. KETCHUM, A REPUBLICAN, WITH A WIDE GRIN. ASKED ABOUT THE
CONSTITUTIONAL BAR ON CONGRESSMEN TRAVELLING ABROAD AS GUESTS
OF ANY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT- THE ALLEGED REASON WHY THEY WERE
GUESTS OF MR. ACKERMAN, WHO HAD ASKED THE DEPARTMENT OF
INFORMATION TO HELP WITH THE TOUR PARTY'S ARRANGEMENTS-
MR. KETCHUM SAID THIS WAS, IN ANY CASE, A FARCICAL LAW. HE
WAS FREE TO VISIT RED CHINA OR CUBA WHERE HE HAD NO OPTION
BUT TO BE A GUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT, BUT NOT A COUNTRY LIKE
SOUTH AFRICA UNDER THE SAME CONDITIONS.
THE CONGRESSMEN ARRIVED IN PRETORIA ON SUNDAY. YESTERDAY
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 PRETOR 00278 231655Z

THEY VISITED THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA AND HAD A
MILITARY BRIEFING ON ' WHAT WAS GOING ON IN SOUTHERN AFRICA'.
ON THEIR TOUR, THEY WILL VISIT DURBAN, THE TRANSKEI,
WHERE THEY WILL MEET CHIEF KAISER MATANZIMA, EAST LONDON,
CAPE TOWN, AND SIMONSTOWN. IN CAPE TOWN, THEY WILL MEET THE
MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, DR. CONNIE MULDER. THE GROUP
THEN POSED FOR A PHOTOGRAPHER, REMARKABLY WILLING FOR PEOPLE
WHO WERE EARLIER CLAIMED TO BE AVERSE TO PICTURES. UNQTE
END PRETORIA NEWS STORY.
HURD

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PRETOR00278
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750026-0251
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750126/aaaaaxaf.tel
Line Count: 211
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 12398
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 MAY 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <18 FEB 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL
TAGS: OREP, US, SF, (BURGENER, CLAIR W), (CRANE), (KETCHUM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006